Sub C1 (cont'd)

~~image forming dots at a [pitch]~~ distance smaller than the pitch of the image forming dots [dot forming the image].

Sub C1 (cont'd)

9. (Amended) An ink jet printer, comprising:

an ink jet head ejecting a plurality of kinds of ink droplets of different sizes from a single nozzle based on data to be printed, thereby printing, on a prescribed recording medium, dots of sizes corresponding to the sizes of the ink droplets; and

a controller for changing [the dot pitch] a distance between the centers of adjacent dots thereby to change the printing position of the dot based on the size of the dot in printing said plurality of kinds of dots.

Sub C1 (cont'd)

17. (Amended) A method of controlling printing in an ink jet printer which ejects a plurality of kinds of ink droplets of different sizes from a single nozzle based on data to be printed, thereby printing, on a prescribed recording medium, dots of sizes corresponding to the sizes of the ink droplets, comprising the steps of:

determining whether or not control of the printing position of a dot is necessary; and

controlling the timing of printing the dot if it is determined necessary.

Please add the following new claims 24-30:

--24. An ink jet printer comprising:

a nozzle for ejecting ink droplets of different sizes to form an image on a recording medium with image forming dots and smoothing dots, wherein said smoothing dots are smaller than the image forming dots; and

a smoother for smoothing the image by arranging the smoothing dots around edges of the image forming dots,

wherein a distance between a center of at least one of the smoothing dots and a center of one of the image forming dots adjacent to said one smoothing dot is shorter than a distance between the centers of adjacent image forming dots.

25. The ink jet printer as recited in claim 24, wherein said distance between the center of the smoothing dot and the center of the image forming dot adjacent to said one smoothing dot is controlled by controlling the timing of printing the smoothing dots.

26. The ink jet printer as recited in claim 25, wherein in said timing control, the timing of applying signal voltage to print said smoothing dot is controlled.

27. An ink jet printer as recited in claim 24, wherein said distance between the center of the smoothing dot and the

center of the image forming dot adjacent to said smoothing dot is controlled by controlling the speed of ejection of an ink droplet forming said smoothing dot.

28. An ink jet printer as recited in claim 27, wherein said speed of ejection of said ink droplet is controlled by varying a change degree in signal voltage to print said smoothing dot.

29. An ink jet printer as recited in claim 24, wherein said nozzle moves along the recording medium during a printing operation, and said distance between the smoothing dot and the center of the image forming dot adjacent to said smoothing dot is controlled based on the ejection speed of the ink droplet and the moving speed of the nozzle.

30. A method of controlling printing in an ink jet printer having a nozzle for ejecting ink droplets of different sizes to form an image on a recording medium using dots of sizes corresponding to sizes of the ink droplets, said method comprising:

performing a smoothing process to image data to smooth an image to be printed; and

ejecting ink droplets of different sizes from the nozzle based on the image data on which has been performed the